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ABSTRACT

Project Spectrum is a collaborative research and development project that offers an alternative approach to assessment and curriculum development for preschool and early primary years. The project, based on Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences theory and David Henry Feldman's nonuniversal development theory, emphasizes observing children closely, identifying children's areas of strength, and using those strengths as the basis for an individualized educational program. This curriculum resource guide provides enriching activities from the project in a wide variety of disciplines, including mechanics and construction, movement, and music. The guide begins with an overview of Project Spectrum, describes the project's conceptual framework, and discusses its application in the classroom. Eight chapters follow, each composed of guides to 15 to 20, activities including a combination of free-play and structured activities. The chapters cover: (1) mechanics and construction (Jie-Qi Chen); (2) science (Jie-Qi Chen); (3) music (Roger Dempsey); (4) movement (Julie Viens); (5) math (Winnifred O' Toole, Jie-Qui Chen, Miriam Raider-Roth); (6) social understanding (Winnifred O'Toole, Jie-Qi Chen); (7) language (Julie Viens); and (8) visual arts (Roger Dempsey). The format for the activity guides includes a brief introduction to the domain and key abilities crucial to success, activity objective, core components, needed materials, and step-by-step procedures. Activities are divided into four venues: child-directed small-group, teacher-directed small-group, child-directed large-group, and teacher-directed large-group. Each activity description includes take-home activities. (KB)